



## Aruban legend: How Cacique Arua gave Aruba its name



Page 11

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY  
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY



**SUNDAY:**

**MARRYBELL MADURO**  
SINGER  
6:30 - 8:30pm

**MONDAY:**

**ANGELA FLORES**  
VIOLINIST  
6:30 - 8:30pm

**TUESDAY:**

**JEAN PAUL**  
SAXOPHONIST  
6:30 - 8:30pm

**WEDNESDAY:**

**EDDIE KROON**  
SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm

**MAILLEYN ALVARADO**  
VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

**KARAOKE** 9:00 - 11:00pm

**THURSDAY:**

**MARRYBELL MADURO**  
SINGER  
6:30 - 8:30pm

**FRIDAY:**

**RICKY THOMAS**  
GUITARIST  
7:00 - 9:00pm

**SATURDAY:**

**EDDIE KROON**  
SINGER  
4:00 - 6:00pm

**ANGELA FLORES**  
VIOLINIST  
6:30 - 8:30pm



**WATER'S EDGE**  
RESTAURANT & BAR



**costa linda**  
beach resort

**Happy Hour**  
12 - 1 / 4 - 6 / 9 - 10

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PREMIUM  
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# U.S. to accept white South African refugees while other programs remain paused

By MATTHEW LEE and REBECCA SANTANA  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration will welcome more than two dozen white South Africans to the United States as refugees next week, an unusual move because it has suspended most refugee resettlement operations, officials and documents said Friday.

The first Afrikaner refugees are arriving Monday at Dulles International Airport outside Washington, according to a document obtained by The Associated Press. They are expected to be greeted by a government delegation, including the deputy secretary of state and officials from the Department of Health and Human Services, which has organized their resettlement under its Office for Refugee Resettlement.

The flight will be the first of several in a "much larger-scale relocation effort," White House deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller told reporters. "What's happening in South Africa fits the textbook definition of why the refugee program was created," he said. "This is persecution based on a protected characteristic in



White South Africans demonstrate in support of U.S. President Donald Trump in front of the U.S. embassy in Pretoria, South Africa, Feb. 15, 2025.

this case, race. This is race-based persecution."

State Department refugee programs have been put on hold since President Donald Trump ordered a review in February. While halting arrivals from Afghanistan, Iraq, most of sub-Saharan Africa and throughout Latin America, Trump also issued an executive order prioritizing the processing of white South Africans who claim racial discrimination in their

home country. "The U.S. Embassy in Pretoria has been conducting interviews and processing pursuant to President Trump's Executive Order on Addressing Egregious Actions of the Republic of South Africa," the State Department said. "The Department of State is prioritizing consideration for U.S. refugee resettlement of Afrikaners in South Africa who are victims of unjust racial discrimination."

The department said nothing about the imminent arrival of what officials said are believed to be more than two dozen white South Africans from roughly four families who had applied for resettlement in the U.S. Their arrival had originally been scheduled for early last week but was delayed for reasons that were not immediately clear.

The HHS refugee office was ready to offer them sup-

port, including with housing, furniture and other household items, and expenses like groceries, clothing, diapers and more, the document says. "This effort is a stated priority of the Administration."

HHS didn't respond to messages seeking comment.

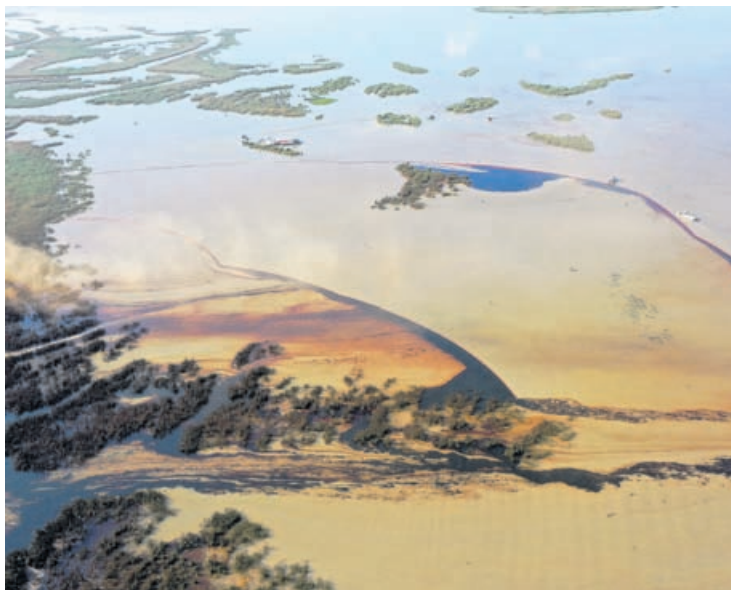
The Trump administration has taken an outspoken adversarial position in regard to South Africa, which is the homeland of close Trump adviser Elon Musk and also holds the rotating presidency of the Group of 20 developed and developing nations.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio notably boycotted a G20 foreign ministers meeting in Johannesburg in March because its main agenda centered on diversity, inclusion and climate change. Rubio also expelled South Africa's ambassador to the U.S. in March for comments that the Trump administration interpreted as accusing the president of promoting white supremacy.

Shortly thereafter, the State Department ended all engagement with the G20 during South Africa's presidency. The U.S. is due to host G20 meetings in 2026. □

Associated Press

# 15 states sue over Trump's move to fast-track oil and gas projects via his 'energy emergency' order



An aerial view shows the affected area of marsh environment near Garden Island Bay, La., on April 28, 2025.

By REBECCA BOONE

Associated Press

A coalition of 15 states is suing over President Donald Trump's efforts to fast-track energy-related projects, saying the administration is bypassing environmental protection laws and threatening endangered species, critical habitat and cultural resources.

Trump issued an executive order declaring a "national energy emergency" on the first day of his presidency. The order urges oil and gas expansion through federal use of eminent domain and the Defense Production Act, which allows the government to use private land and resources to produce goods deemed to be a national necessity. Those kinds of steps are supposed to be reserved for actual emergencies, such as projects needed in the aftermath of disasters like hurricanes, flooding or major oil spills, the attorneys general wrote in the

lawsuit filed in Washington state on Friday. But now, Washington state Attorney General Nick Brown and the other plaintiffs said, agencies like the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Interior are bypassing required reviews under federal laws like the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act.

The attorneys general said reliable and affordable electricity is of critical importance to the nation, but noted that U.S. energy production is already at an all-time high.

"The Executive Order is unlawful, and its commands that federal agencies disregard the law and in many cases their own regulations to fast-track extensive categories of activities will result in damage to waters, wetlands, critical habitat, historic and cultural resources, endangered species, and the people and wildlife that rely on these precious resources," they wrote in the lawsuit. □

Associated Press



# Former Supreme Court Justice David Souter, a Republican who became a liberal favorite, dies at 85

By MARK SHERMAN  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Retired Supreme Court Justice David H. Souter, the ascetic bachelor and New Hampshire Republican who became a favorite of liberals during his nearly 20 years on the bench, has died. He was 85.

Souter died Thursday at his home in New Hampshire, the court said in a statement Friday.

He retired from the court in June 2009, giving President Barack Obama his first Supreme Court vacancy to fill. Obama, a Democrat, chose Sonia Sotomayor, the court's first Latina justice.

Souter was appointed by Republican President George H.W. Bush in 1990. He was a reliably liberal vote on abortion, church-state relations, freedom of expression and the accessibility of federal courts. Souter also dissented from the decision in *Bush v. Gore* in 2000, which effectively handed the presidency to George W. Bush, the son of the man who put him on the high court.

While liberals were delighted with a justice they initially feared, conservatives turned Souter's appointment into a rallying cry, "No more Souters," that fueled their successful drive to move the court more firmly to the right.

In retirement, Souter warned that ignorance of how government works could undermine American democracy.

"What I worry about is that when problems are not addressed, people will not know who is responsible. And when the problems get bad enough ... some one person will come forward and say, 'Give me total power and I will solve this problem.' That is how the Roman republic fell," Souter said in a 2012 interview.

His lifestyle was spare yogurt and an apple, consumed at his desk, was a typical lunch and he shunned Washington's so-



David Souter, Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, is shown, Dec. 1993.

Associated Press

cial scene. He couldn't wait to leave town in early summer. As soon as the court finished its work in late June, he climbed into his Volkswagen Jetta for the drive back to the worn farmhouse where his family moved when he was 11.

Yet for all his reserve, Souter was beloved by colleagues, court employees and friends. He was a noted storyteller and generous with his time.

"Justice David Souter served our Court with great distinction for nearly twenty years. He brought uncommon wisdom and kindness to a lifetime of public service," Chief Justice John Roberts said. Souter continued hearing cases on the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for more than a decade after he left the high court, Roberts said.

Sotomayor recalled the kindness of the man she succeeded on the Supreme Court. "When I arrived at the court, no one was more welcoming to me than David," she said in a statement. "After his retirement, he periodically sent me notes, which I will forever treasure for their insightfulness and beautiful turns of phrase."

When Bush plucked Souter from obscurity in 1990, liberal interest groups feared

he would be the vote that would undo the court's *Roe v. Wade* ruling in favor of abortion rights. He was called a stealth nominee by some.

Bush White House aide John Sununu, the former conservative governor of New Hampshire, hailed his choice as a "home run." And early in his time in Washington, Souter was called a moderate conservative.

But he soon joined in a ruling reaffirming women's right to an abortion, a decision from 1992 that is his most noted work on the court.

Thirty years later, a more conservative court overturned that decision and the constitutional right to abortion.

Souter asked precise questions during argument sessions, sometimes with a fierceness that belied his low-key manner. "He had an unerring knack of finding the weakest link in your argument," veteran Supreme Court advocate Carter Phillips said.

Souter was history's 105th Supreme Court justice and only its sixth bachelor.

Although hailed by *The Washington Post* as the capital city's most prominently eligible single man when he moved from New

Hampshire, Souter resolutely resisted the social whirl.

"I wasn't that kind of person before I moved to Washington, and, at this age, I don't see any reason to change," the intensely private Souter told an acquaintance.

He worked seven days a week through most of the court's term from October to early summer, staying at his Supreme Court office for more than 12 hours a day. He said he underwent an annual "intellectual lobotomy" at the start of each term because he had so little time to read for pleasure.

Souter rented an apartment a few miles from the court and jogged alone at Fort McNair, an Army installation near his apartment building.

He was once mugged while on a run, an apparently random act.

Souter returned to his well-worn house in Weare, New Hampshire, for a few months each summer and was given the use of an office in a Concord courthouse.

An avid hiker, Souter spent much of his time away from work trekking through the New Hampshire mountains. When Souter in 2005 joined an unpopular 5-4 decision on eminent domain al-

lowing a Connecticut city to take several waterfront homes for a private development, a group angered by the decision tried to use it to evict him from his Weare farmhouse to make way for the "Lost Liberty Hotel."

But Weare residents rejected the proposal.

Shortly after his retirement, Souter bought a 3,500-square-foot Cape Cod-style home in Hopkinton, New Hampshire. It was reported, though perhaps it was just part of Souter's lore, that he worried that the foundation of the house in Weare would give way under the weight of all the books he owned.

Souter had been a federal appellate judge for just over four months when picked for the high court. He had heard but one case as a federal judge, and as a state judge previously had little chance to rule on constitutional issues. Though liberals were initially wary of his appointment, it was political conservatives who felt betrayed when, in two 1992 rulings, Souter helped forge a moderate-liberal coalition that reaffirmed the constitutional right of abortion and the court's longtime ban on officially sponsored prayers in public schools.

Yet as Souter biographer Tinsley Yarbrough noted, the justice did not take "extreme positions."

Indeed, in June 2008, Souter sided with Exxon Mobil Corp. and broke with his liberal colleagues in slashing the punitive damages the company owed Alaskan victims of the Exxon Valdez oil spill.

Before serving as a New Hampshire judge, Souter was his state's attorney general for two years. He worked on the attorney general's staff for the previous eight years, after a brief stint in private practice.

Souter earned his undergraduate and law degrees from Harvard University, and a master's degree from Oxford as a Rhodes scholar. □



# Mayor Baraka of Newark, New Jersey, arrested at ICE detention center he has been protesting

**NEWARK, N.J. (AP)** — Newark Mayor Ras Baraka was arrested Friday at an federal immigration detention center where he has been protesting its opening this week, a federal prosecutor said.

Alina Habba, interim U.S. attorney for New Jersey, said on the social platform X that Baraka committed trespass and ignored warnings from Homeland Security personnel to leave Delaney Hall, an detention facility run by private prison operator GEO Group.

Habba said Baraka had "chosen to disregard the law" and added that he was taken into custody.

Baraka, a Democrat who is running to succeed term-limited Gov. Phil Murphy, has embraced the fight with the Trump administration over illegal immigration.

He has aggressively pushed back against the construction and opening of the 1,000-bed detention center, arguing that it should not be allowed to open because of building permit issues.

Witnesses said the arrest came after Baraka at-



**Newark Mayor Ras Baraka speaks to protesters outside of Delaney Hall, a recently re-opened immigration detention center, in Newark, N.J., Wednesday, May 7, 2025.**

Associated Press

tempted to join a scheduled tour of the facility with three members of New Jersey's congressional delegation, Reps. Robert Menendez, LaMonica McIver, and Bonnie Watson Coleman. When federal officials blocked his entry, a heated argument broke out, according to Viri Martinez, an activist with the New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Jus-

tice. It continued even after Baraka returned to the public side of the gates.

"There was yelling and pushing," Martinez said. "Then the officers swarmed Baraka. They threw one of the organizers to the ground. They put Baraka handcuffs and put him in an unmarked car."

In a statement, The Department of Homeland Secu-

rity said that the lawmakers had not asked for a tour of the facility, contrary to witnesses' accounts. The department said further that as a bus carrying detainees was entering the facility, "a group of protestors, including two members of the U.S. House of Representatives, stormed the gate and broke into the detention facility."

It said Menendez, Watson Coleman, and a number of protesters were currently "holed up in a guard shack" at the facility.

Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin was quoted in the statement as calling it "beyond a bizarre political stunt" and saying it put agents' and detainees' safety at risk.

"Members of Congress are not above the law and cannot illegally break into detention facilities. Had these members requested a tour, we would have facilitated a tour of the facility," McLaughlin said.

In video of the altercation shared with The Associated Press, a federal official in a jacket with the logo of the Homeland Security Investigations can be heard telling Baraka he could not join a tour of the facility because "you are not a congress member."

Baraka then left the secure area, rejoining protesters on the public side of the gate. Video showed him speaking through the gate to a man in a suit, who informed him: "They're talking about coming back to arrest you." □

# Liam and Olivia dominate again with top baby names for a sixth year in a row

By **FATIMA HUSSEIN**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Liam and Olivia dominate. Still. The two names have, for a sixth year together, topped the list of names for babies born in the U.S. in 2024.

The Social Security Administration annually tracks the names given to girls and boys in each state, with names dating back to 1880. In time for Mother's Day, the agency on Friday released the most popular

names from applications for Social Security cards. Liam has reigned for eight years in a row for boys, while Olivia has topped the girls' list for six. Also, for the sixth consecutive year, Emma took the second slot for girls, and Noah for boys. The girls' name Luna slipped out of the Top 10 and was replaced by Sofia, which enters at number 10 for the first time.

After Liam, the most common names for boys are, in order: Noah, Oliver, Theodore, James, Henry, Mateo, Elijah, Lucas and William.

After Olivia, the most common names for girls are Emma, Amelia, Charlotte, Mia, Sophia, Isabella, Evelyn, Ava and Sofia.

Sophie Kihm, editor-in-chief

of nameberry, a baby naming website, said the latest data showcases how American parents are increasingly choosing names that have cross-cultural appeal. Kihm's first name shows up in two variations on the annual list.

"A trend we're tracking is that Americans are more likely to choose heritage choices," Kihm said, including names that work "no matter where you are in the world."

"More families in the U.S. come from mixed cultural backgrounds and I hear parents commonly request that they want their child to travel and have a relatively easy to understand name." The Social Security Administration's latest data

show that 3.61 million babies were born in the U.S. in 2024. That's a slight increase from last year's 3.59 million babies, representing an overall increase in the American birthrate.

Social media stars and popular television shows are having some impact on the rising popularity of certain names, Social Security says.

Among those rising in popularity for girls: Ailany, a Hawaiian name that means "chief," topped the list. The boys' name Truce, an Old English name meaning "peace," rose 11,118 spots from last year's position to rank 991.

The complete, searchable list of baby names is on the Social Security website. □



**A pregnant woman stands for a portrait in Dallas, May 18, 2023.**  
Associated Press



# Syria and Lebanon's moves to centralize power leads to crackdowns on Palestinian factions

By **BASSEM MROUE** and **KAREEM CHEHAYEB**

Associated Press

**BEIRUT (AP)** — Lebanon and Syria are cracking down on Palestinian factions that for decades have had an armed presence in both countries and which on some occasions were used to plan and launch attacks against Israel.

The crackdown comes as Syria's new rulers under Islamist group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham are pursuing officials of the former government under Bashar Assad, including those in the ousted president's web of security agencies. Syria's most prominent Palestinian factions were key allies of the Assad dynasty in both war and peace time and closely cooperated on security matters.

It also comes after Iran's main regional ally, the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, was weakened after over a year of war with Israel and as Lebanon's new government vows to monopolize all arms under the government, including Hezbollah and Palestinian factions in Lebanon.

On Wednesday, Syria's President Ahmad al-Sharaa said his government is holding indirect talks with Israel through mediators, who he



In this photo released by the Syrian Presidency press office, Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa, right, shakes hands with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas in Damascus, Syria, Friday, April 18, 2025.

Associated Press

did not name. He said the aim of the indirect negotiations is to ease tensions after intense Israeli airstrikes on Syria.

A crackdown on hardline Palestinian factions, including the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, which took part with Hamas in the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks in Gaza, is likely to be welcomed by Israel.

A Syrian government official declined to comment on the matter.

A Palestinian official who had been in Damascus for more than 40 years, and who recently left the coun-

try, said Palestinian factions in Syria were forced to hand over their weapons and the Palestinian embassy will be the only side that Syria's new authorities will deal with. The Palestinian groups would only be limited to social and charitable activities, the official added, who spoke on condition of anonymity fearing for their safety.

'We are simply guests here' Palestinian factions for decades have lived in refugee camps in Lebanon and Syria and have been involved militarily both lo-

cally and regionally. They closely aligned themselves with the Assads and later with Hezbollah in Lebanon, whose powerful military arsenal grew over the past few decades. Over time, many of the leaders of groups like Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad were based in those countries. However, the regional developments of late 2024 that went against Iran's favor in the Levant began to take shape in recent weeks among the Palestinian factions in Lebanon and Syria. "No weapons will be al-

lowed in the (Palestinian refugee) camps. The Syrian state will protect citizens whether they are Palestinians or Syrians," said Syrian political analyst Ahmad al-Hamada, whose view points reflect those of the government. "It is not allowed for Palestinian factions that were arms for Iran and the Assad regime to keep their weapons."

When asked whether the state will prevent any attacks against Israel, al-Hamada said Syria will not allow its territories to be used as a launch pad against any neighbor.

Syrian authorities in Damascus this week detained two senior officials of the Iran-backed Palestinian Islamic Jihad group and briefly detained and questioned the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, FLP-GC, that since its founding had been a key ally of Assad.

Another Palestinian official with one of the factions that had been based in Syria said the developments caught them by surprise, and that regardless of who runs the country they are keen to have good relations with Syria's new rulers and maintain the country's stability. □

## Panama president says he will not renegotiate security deal with U.S., despite protests

**PANAMA CITY (AP)** — Panama President José Raúl Mulino said Thursday that he will not renegotiate an agreement with the United States to give U.S. troops access to Panamanian facilities, despite protests charging that he compromised the country's sovereignty.

On Tuesday, thousands of Panamanians marched in the capital in the largest protest yet against an agreement signed during last month's visit by U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth.

The U.S. embassy followed with a statement Wednesday

saying that the agreement did not allow for establishing military bases in Panama. A U.S. military presence in Panama is sensitive, since people still remember the U.S. invasion in 1989 and U.S. President Donald Trump has suggested that the U.S. take back control of the Panama Canal.

"Panama's sovereignty is not at stake, it's not handed over, it's not given," Mulino said during his weekly press conference. He insisted the agreement would not lead to U.S. bases in Panama.

Later Thursday, the new

U.S. ambassador to Panama, Kevin Marino Carbera, said in a news conference that "the memorandum (of understanding) is going to strengthen our cooperation against drug trafficking and protect the (Panama) canal and we know that's the responsibility of both countries according to the (canal) treaty."

The locations where U.S. troops and contractors will have access will always remain under the control of Panama and it can terminate the agreement with six months notice, the Panamanian government has said. Protests during

recent weeks have closed streets and drawn thousands. Mulino said they

were the result of political interests. □



U.S. Ambassador to Panama Kevin Marino Carbera gives a press conference in Panama City, Thursday, May 8, 2025.

Associated Press



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## Rights groups sue to free Venezuelans deported from the U.S. and held in El Salvador

By **MARCOS ALEMÁN** and **CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN**  
Associated Press

**SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP)** — International human rights organizations on Friday filed a lawsuit with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights asking that the commission order El Salvador's government to release Venezuelans deported from the United States and held in a maximum-security prison. In March, the U.S. government deported more than 200 Venezuelan immigrants alleged to have ties to the Tren de Aragua gang to El Salvador, paying the Salvadoran government to imprison them.

Since then, they have had no access to lawyers or ability to communicate with their families. Neither the U.S. nor Salvadoran governments have said how the men could eventually regain their freedom. "These individuals have been stripped from their families and subject to a state-sponsored enforced disappearance regime, effectively, completely against the law," said Bella Mosselmans, director of the Global Strategic Litigation Council, which helped bring the suit. One of them is Euder José Torres.

**Tattoos flagged**  
In September, Torres boarded a Houston-bound flight in Quito, Ecuador with his 21-year-old stepson after successfully completing a monthslong screening process that included health exams and criminal history checks.

The 41-year-old Venezuelan and the young man he had raised since early childhood had been approved for family reunifi-



Prisoners look out of their cell as Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem tours the Terrorist Confinement Center in Tecoluca, El Salvador, March 26, 2025.

cation through the U.N.'s International Organization for Migration and were headed to the U.S. to join his long-time partner and his stepson's brother.

But at the airport in Houston, immigration agents saw a tattoo of a compass on the stepson's forearm with the initials of his mother, father and brother in place of the cardinal directions. They said it signaled him as a member of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua. The next day he was on a flight back to Ecuador.

But Torres didn't have an Ecuadorian visa, so agents placed him in immigration detention in Texas.

He had tattoos too, the name of his saint Elegua in script on one forearm he is a practitioner of Santería, a fusion of African religions and Catholicism and skull on the other.

Torres sought U.S. asylum and passed his credible fear interview, but at an immigration hearing in Janu-

ary the government lawyer told the judge, without providing evidence, he too was a member of Tren de Aragua. The judge issued a deportation order, according to his longtime partner, who requested anonymity due to fears of retaliation despite her legal status in the U.S.

In March, Torres found himself among more than 200 Venezuelans sent to a maximum-security prison in El Salvador.

His partner questions how the U.S. government could send him to a prison there without any evidence that he had broken the law or has a criminal record.

**Lack of due process**  
El Salvador has been living under a state of emergency for more than three years, which has suspended some fundamental rights and given the administration of President Nayib Bukele extraordinary powers.

More than 85,000 Salvador-

ans have been arrested over the period for alleged ties to the country's once-powerful street gangs.

The improvement in El Salvador's security has won Bukele widespread domestic support and some admirers in the region who seek to imitate his success. But the lack of due process and numerous arbitrary arrests have drawn international condemnation. Bukele has dismissed those critics as defenders of criminals.

A spokesperson for Bukele's office declined to comment Friday.

With the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump taking a hard line on immigration and portraying migrants broadly as criminals, neither government has been swayed by legal maneuvers in their own country to seek the men's release or return to the U.S. A judge in Washington this week said he would order the U.S. government to

provide more information about its prison deal with El Salvador as he moved closer to requiring the government to return the men to the U.S.

The human rights organizations hope that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights will accept this emergency petition. The commission is an arm of the regional Organization of American States. The groups presented the case on behalf of the families of 18 of the men sent to El Salvador, who provided sworn statements about their cases.

Some of the men had pending asylum applications in the U.S., while others had been vetted and approved for refugee resettlement by the U.S. government, still others had temporary protected status allowing them to work in the U.S., according to the lawsuit.

Bukele has said he has the room to hold the men and the payments from the U.S. will help cover the costs of his new prison.

Legal maneuvers unsuccessful

While both the Venezuelan government and nongovernmental organizations have filed habeas corpus petitions essentially compelling the government to prove someone's detention was justified in El Salvador's courts, none have advanced.

The groups are asking the human right commission to order precautionary measures, basically an emergency action to prevent irreparable harm. Among them are the ability to communicate with their families, access to legal counsel and return to the United States. □



## Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use

**(Oranjestad)—Though western medicine is now widely used for common illnesses and to keep our bodies healthy and happy, it is still very common in every household in Aruba (and around the world) to have staple home remedies that is passed on through generations. Here are some tips that our elders have passed on to us over the years.**

### Pineapple

Pineapple has more uses than topping it on your Christmas ham. According to elders, the skin of a pineapple is great to use to refresh your body. Clean the



skin thoroughly and make tea or warapa\* with it. It is said that this tea can also be drank after an operation on the ovaries or uterus. This gets rid of irritation and inflammation.

When the fruit is unripe and green, this can be used to stimulate menstruation flow in women. This also stimulates the passing kidney stones. When ripe, the fruit can be used for poisoning in the gut and can help treat rheumatic diseases, like arthritis.

However, breastfeeding women who cannot produce much milk are advised not to consume too pineapple, and people with acid reflux are recommended to not consume any pineapple at all.

### Arrowroot

Arrowroot is native to tropical America and can be sold as a powder or whole. It is said that you can take

arrowroot powder and make a "shalup" (porridge) for stomach pain or when you're feeling weak. You can make it with milk too, but it is advised to best use just water. You can also add prunes for a bit of sweetness. Arrowroot shalup is also good to treat an unhealthy gut or for diarrhea.

To make arrowroot shalup, boil a bit of water and add one tablespoon of arrowroot powder and stir continuously until you reach porridge consistency. If you make a shalup with milk, add a pinch of salt. Raw arrowroot powder can be used to powder babies.

### Eggplant/Aubergine

Eggplants, or aubergines, are easy to find in supermarkets around the world and can be grown all year round on the island. Related to potato and tomato, eggplants are good to calm nerves. It can also be



used to lower blood pressure, by steeping its leaves in boiled water and drinking it. You can also make eggplant juice to help purify your blood. However, do make sure to drink slowly; let it mix with your spit and then swallow.

Eggplant kataplan\* can also be used to treat skin

tumors, abscesses and hemorrhoids. Eggplant kataplan can also be used externally to treat arthritis. □

**\*warapa: term referring to a water and sugar solution, a.k.a simple syrup.**

**\*kataplan: porridge-like mixture used externally for wounds or parts of the body that are painful or swollen.**

## Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our "Dorado"

**(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Dorado", a common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Dorado.**

Dorado has many different names it can be referred to. Dral, Dorao, Drals, Drado, are some of them in Papiamentu. In English, it is also called Mahi Mahi, Dolphinfish, or Dorado. It's a good example to reflect on why there can be many names. The same fish becomes known by different common names, why? Common names come only when a group of people, to understand each other, assign a name to a fish. Mahi Mahi, for example, comes from Hawaii and means "very strong". Dorado is based on Spanish and refers to the golden yellow color that the fish shines with under the sun. Why it's



called Dolphinfish in English is not well defined and while there are several stories around this, none have been confirmed.

Dorado is found in all tropical to subtropical oceans around the world. Dorado is very popular both for recreational fishing and for consumption. It is known among fishermen as an exciting

catch and a fish that puts up a good fight. Its meat is very good for consumption and it is also commercially fished for that reason.

They grow very fast, up to 2.7 inches (almost 7 cm) per week. They can live up to a maximum of 5 years although very few reach that age. Most become adults

within 1 year but many become reproductive after just 5 or 6 months and reproduce very quickly too.

They live in open water on the surface most of the time. Many fish seek them around sushi lines or floating objects on the sea. Often you will find a group landing together and if you keep a male on the line, often the others will

stay close or can keep the group interested by giving shrimp or squid.

### Description:

Dorado has a distinctive body. It has a large tail and its long, flat body ends in a large blunt head. Its color of yellow and green or blue makes it immediately recognizable, even with small variations in these colors.

Dorado has clear differences between adult females and males. The male is larger and can easily reach 50 to 80 pounds and has a much flatter head compared to the female. Therefore, male Dorados are also called "bull Dorado".

Dorado can be found in our waters around the island all year round, but there are periods when it is easier to find than others. □

**Source: The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (Santa Rosa).**



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## Visit the island's hidden natural pools

(Oranjestad)—Amongst the countless beaches surrounding the island that are well-known and frequently visited, there are an additional two “hidden” natural pools that are situated in the northern coast of the island, two ideal stops in your tour itinerary.

### Conchi (Natural Pool)

For many years, Conchi was the only natural pool that we had on the island. Located in the Arikok National Park, near Boca Keto and the Daimari Ranch, Conchi—also known “Cura di Turtuga (Turtle's Cove) or

just Natural Pool—is reachable with any 4x4 vehicle or by foot if you're up for a long hike. However, since it is part of the National Park, you must first get permission from park management to enter. You would have to purchase a day pass, and receive a wristband as proof of payment. Once you've completed that, you are set!

If you decide to hike from the entrance of the Arikok National Park, this is also possible: do bring plenty of protective clothing and enough water and food—it

could take you up to three hours to hike there!

However, when you eventually do get there, you will be greeted with crystal blue water surrounded by a natural rock formation that protects you from the wild waves on the other side. Though the pool is located on the northern side of the island (where the sea is largely rough and largely no suitable for swimming), the pool itself is very calm. It's also relatively deep, and you can climb up the rocks and jump in!

### Cave Pool

This relatively new pool appeared just a few years ago, when a part of the dried up coral floor broke off and created a partition between the ocean and what is now the natural pool that is hidden there. Because it's still so new, there is no official name for it, but most people just call



it the cave pool.

Just like the Conchi, the new natural pool is situated on the northern coast of Aruba. However, this pool is much easier to reach with any type of vehicle, and there is no hiking needed. This spot has also become a regular stop for touring visitors.

When you get there, maybe you won't be able to spot the pool immediately, because you will probably notice the moon-shaped lagoon where wild northern

waves crash into each other. Sounds scary, but if you look down on your right, you'll see a calm, crystal blue little pool in the corner. To get there, you have to climb down some stairs. Be careful when climbing down and follow the instructions of your tour guide if you have one.

And just like Conchi, this pool also has a jumping spot, and a rope to climb back up the boulder. □

Picture of cave pool is credited to RockaBeach Tours



## Aruba to me

**ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.**

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note:

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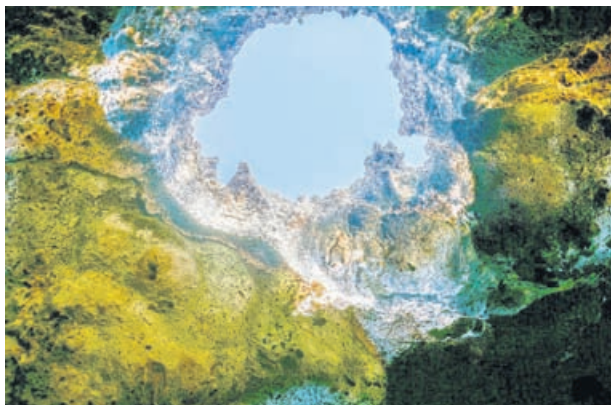
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## Today is going to be a good day

(Oranjestad)—Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do **BEYOND** the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. **Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.**

### Nature Calls



The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website [www.arubanationalpark.org](http://www.arubanationalpark.org)

### Philip's Animal Garden

To stay with the animals, let's hop to an amazing place. Something different to do, an experience

that is to be enjoyed by people of all ages. Welcome to Philip's Animal Garden. We are not talking about a zoo here, this is actually a sanctuary for all types of creatures, from horses to peacocks, kangaroos to turtles, monkeys, goats, and many, many more different species. The place was founded in 2009 and it is the only organization rescuing and rehabilitating exotic animals in Aruba, which has resulted in an amazing collection of these animals. They provide a suitable living environment for all the rescued animals. Up until now the owner, Philip, has built this shelter with his own efforts; building all the cages from scratch, designing all structures and welding them with his own bare hands. His goal is to upgrade the facilities to a world-class animal shelter with veterinary care and round-the-clock staffs. With the input from the Aruban community and visitors they provide the best care for these animals. Please check out their website for more information: [www.philipsanimalgarden.com](http://www.philipsanimalgarden.com).

### The Lighthouse

No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its



light. [www.arubalighthouse.com](http://www.arubalighthouse.com) will give you more information.

### Kayak in the Mangroves

Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some work-out -as it might get a little windy and rough-, you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. Its fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. There are several companies that offer kayak tours, we had good experience with The Shack Kayak Tours Aruba, find them on Facebook.

### Take an "off-road" sightseeing tour

A must-do activity on the island is for sure taking an off-road sightseeing tour. If you have a rented car, you can drive through the north-eastern side of Aruba and explore the natural pools, caves, rock formations and gorgeous view of the Atlantic Ocean. To access most of these sights, like the natural pool (Conchi) and the Guadirikiri and Fontein caves, you must enter through the Arikok National Park and buy a day pass. Then you drive up the rugged road that leads you through the white dunes, caves and along the wind turbines. Other locations, like the Ayo and Casibari Rock formation are situated more in the center of the island, and are free for guests, 24 hours a day.

### Go for a shopping spree in the city center

Need a new bathing suit? Head to the city center of Oranjestad, where there is countless of different stores—both high end and more affordable—that can offer you the service you deserve! Local shopping stores often offer a more affordable price, and have a variety of clothes, shoes, bathing suites, purses and more. Along the Royal Plaza strip, there are numerous jewelry stores with great quality jewelry. In the Renaissance mall, you can shop high-end luxury brands, like Dolce & Gabbana, Kate Spade, Louis Vuitton and more.

Around the high-rise hotel area near Palm Beach, the Paseo Herencia Mall contain a variety of shopping stores, restaurants, small food stands and even a movie theater! ☐



## The Aruban way of life Creating community with Cas di Torto

**(Oranjestad)—The Aruban people understand that a happy life is spent in great ambience with your loved ones. Passed down from one generation to the other, building community has been a key aspect in forging our traditions and customs. The Cas di Torto (mud house) played a big role in cultivating community, bridging families together and forming close bonds with your neighbors—something we highly value today.**

### Cas di Torto: History and construction

The origin of the Cas di Torto is said to date back to the early 19th century in the Paraguana Peninsula in

Venezuela. Refugees who sought sanctuary on Aruba introduced this building method to the island.

The uprights of the walls were made with sturdy and straight wayaca or kwihi wood, or from thin mangrove struts. Then, the wattle walls were weaved in using branches and twigs from the warero and sisal plant, daubed with a mixture of grass and mud. Finally, the walls got a coat of white plaster to seal everything in.

For roofing, corn stalks, palm fronds and straws were used, allowing air to flow freely through the house. This method of roofing was known

throughout the ABC islands (Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire), but the use of cornstalks in Aruba eventually got replaced with use of mud and white plaster for the roofs. The white plaster all around made the houses look like cake, hence the name "Torto" (Spanish for "cake").

### Building community

Building Torto houses was often a community effort. Young couples who were about to get married had to have their house built before they could tie the knot and start their own family. This is where the help of the community comes into play.

Neighbors, extended family and friends would all help in the construction of a Torto House. And everyone had a role: The men oversaw the building of the house, and the women were tasked with collecting wood and straws, cooking and taking care of the little ones.

The couple's family were primarily responsible for feeding everyone who helped build the house. Before construction, someone usually had the task to prepare the meal; going fishing or slaughter farm animals like goats, chicken or sheep. Even the older kids had their tasks; the older children of the family usually helped with collecting water and mixing the mud.



tomorrow.

The average duration of constructing a Cas di Torto was 4 months.

At the end of a long day of work, everyone would gather around and enjoy a feast of hearty food. This type of help from friends and family became a tradition and was called "paga lomba": You help me today; I'll help you

Nowadays, traditional Cas di Torto are rare, especially those that are still inhabited. Houses that do exist probably date back more than a century. □

**Picture credits: Aruba National Library (BNA) and the Monumentbureau archive on Coleccion.aw**

## Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names

**Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.**

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.

### Ayo

Ajo, or Ayo, is a word with

Arawak-Indian origin. A (or Ha) is an Indo-Antillean generalizing word. If you were to change a part of the word "Ayo", namely 'Yo', to 'Yu' and make 'Ayu', it would mean "white."

However, as we now know, the name of the neighborhood is 'Ayo'. The word 'Yo'

stands for Yocahu, which is another word for 'creator' in Arawak/Taino and in the Papiamentu spoken today, 'Ayo' means 'bye'.

At Ayo, you can find some of the most well known rock formations. These formations became a well loved and visited attraction at Aruba

that is held in high regards by both tourists and locals alike.

If you'd like to know more about the rock formations at Ayo, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all about its location and history.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; A.

### Alto Vista

This word combination can be roughly translated to a 'high point of view' and the neighborhood received this name from the Hill.

In the surrounding areas, Domingo Antonia Silvestre built his by his own means the very first chapel or church of Aruba. The walls of this church were made with rocks but the roof was made of dry corn stalks. The church was inaugurated by father Pablo Algemesi

If you'd like to know more about the Alto Vista Church's beautiful history, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all you need to know about it for when you visit it.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; AV.





# Aruba: the legend behind its name

**(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.**

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names\*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island. □

**Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock**

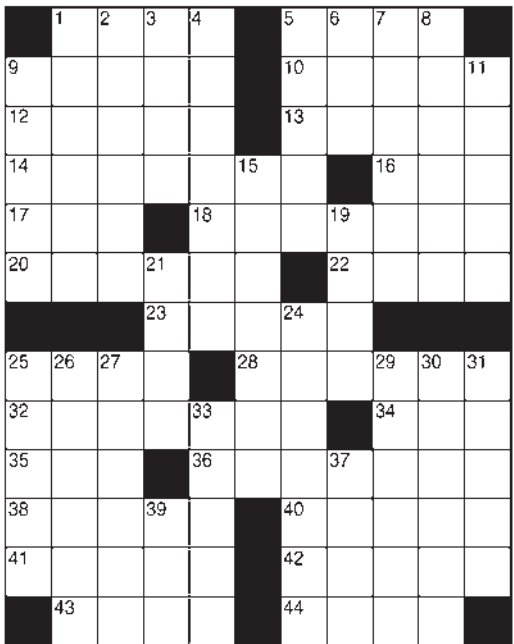




**CROSSWORD**  
By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 43 Knitting  
1 Suit piece need  
5 Not nude 44 Stereo  
9 May, precursor  
for one

**DOWN**  
10 Romantic one  
12 Pond cover  
13 Humble  
14 African city  
16 Gratuity  
17 Coffee dispenser  
18 African city  
20 Annoys  
22 Pretentious  
23 Egypt's Sadat  
25 Racket  
28 Put in a mausoleum  
32 African city  
34 Aussie hopper  
35 Suffix for hero  
36 African city  
38 Raft pilot  
40 Fads  
41 Veep Agnew  
42 Extreme pain



5-13

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-13 CRYPTOQUOTE

OFY HLN SQN CSFLOSNNKKNL FB

OFYL FVP KWBN, HPT OFY XHP

XLNHSN OFYL FVP KNJNPT,

FL PFS. — WCHINK HKKNPTN  
Cryptoquote: RAINY DAYS SHOULD  
BE SPENT AT HOME WITH A CUP OF TEA AND A  
GOOD BOOK. — BILL WATTERSON

**Cruise ship Schedule: May 1 - 11 2025**

		ARR		DEPT	BERTH	
THU	01	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE		09.00	23.00	C 1
SUN	04	FREEWINDS - Dept.		****	22.30	G -
TUE	06	CARNIVAL MAGIC		08.00	22.00	C 1
WED	07	FREEWINDS		06.00	****	E 1
SUN	11	FREEWINDS - Dept.		****	22.30	E -

**Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba**

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

**Electrical power**

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

**Drinking water**

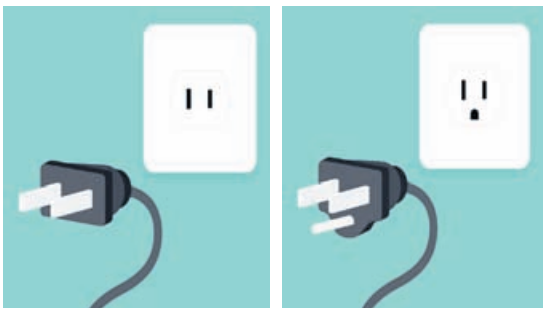
The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

**Supermarket hours**

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

**Safety**

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.





# Expedia cites lower demand for U.S. travel for weaker-than-expected revenue

By DEE-ANN DURBIN  
AP Business Writer

Expedia Group said Friday that reduced travel demand in the United States led to its weaker-than-expected revenue in the first quarter.

Expedia, which owns the lodging reservation platforms Hotels.com and VRBO as well as an eponymous online travel agency, was the latest American company to report slowing business with both international visitors and domestic travelers.

Airbnb and Hilton noted the same trends last week in their quarterly earnings reports. Most major U.S. airlines pulled their full-year financial guidance in April and said they planned to reduce scheduled flights, citing an ebb in economy passengers booking leisure trips.

The U.S. Travel Association has said that economic uncertainty and anxiety over President Donald Trump's tariffs may explain the pull-back. In April, Americans' confidence in the economy slumped for a fifth straight month to the lowest level since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Abroad, anger about the tariffs as well as concern about tourist detentions at the U.S. border have made citizens of some other countries less interested in traveling to the U.S., tourism industry experts say.

The U.S. government said last month that 7.1 million visitors entered the U.S. from overseas this year as of the end of March, 3.3% fewer than during the first three months of 2024.

The numbers did not include land crossings from Mexico or travel from Canada, where citizens have expressed indignation over Trump's remarks about making their country the 51st state. Both U.S. and Canadian government data have shown steep declines in border crossings from Canada.

Expedia Chief Financial Officer Scott Schenkel said the net value of the travel



Travelers check American Airlines flight information screens for their flight status at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023.

Associated Press

technology company's bookings into the U.S. fell 7% in the January-March period, but bookings to the U.S. from Canada were down nearly 30%.

In a conference call with investors Friday, Expedia CEO Ariane Gorin said U.S. demand was even softer in April than March.

"We're still continuing to see pressure on travel into the U.S., but we've also seen some rebalancing," Gorin said. "Europeans are traveling less to the U.S., but more to Latin America."

Seattle-based Expedia said its revenue rose 3% to \$2.99 billion for the quarter.

That was lower than the \$3 billion Wall Street was expecting, according to analysts polled by FactSet. Expedia shares were down more than 7% in mid-day trading Friday.

Airbnb said last week that foreign travel to the U.S. makes up only 2% to 3% of its business. But within that category, it's seeing declining interest in the U.S. as a destination.

"I think Canada is the most obvious example, where we see Canadians are traveling at a much lower rate to the U.S. but they're traveling more domestically, they are traveling

to Mexico, they are going to Brazil, they're going to France, they're going to Japan," Airbnb Chief Financial Officer Ellie Mertz said in a conference call with investors.



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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002  
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+297 588 0539

### EMERGENCY

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Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
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Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
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Red Cross	582 2219

### TAXI SERVICES

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Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS



# 'Hamilton' author Ron Chernow's new book takes on an icon of American letters, Mark Twain

By HILLEL ITALIE  
AP National Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Historian Ron Chernow's latest work may surprise readers who know him best for the book which inspired the musical "Hamilton" and for his biographies of George Washington and Ulysses Grant. The 1,200-page "Mark Twain" will be published next week. It's Chernow's first release since his Grant biography came out in 2017, and the first time he has taken on a literary writer after a career defined by celebrated books about business leaders (John D. Rockefeller, the Morgan dynasty), presidents (Grant and Washington) and, most of all, Alexander Hamilton. His many honors include the Pulitzer Prize for "Washington: A Life," the National Book Award for "The House of Morgan" and the National Book Critics Circle prize for "Titan: The Life of John D. Rockefeller, Sr." But a book on Twain had been in his thoughts for decades, dating back to when he saw Hal Holbrook play him on stage in Philadelphia in the mid-1970s. "And there he was, with the white suit and cigar and mustache and he was tossing out one hilarious line after another," the 76-year-old Chernow says, remem-



Author Ron Chernow poses for a portrait on Thursday, May 8, 2025, in New York.

Associated Press

bering such Twain quips as "There's no distinctly Native American criminal class, except Congress." Chernow became fascinated by Twain as a prototype of the modern celebrity and found himself drawn less to "Mark Twain the novelist than the pundit, the personality and the platform artist." Chernow admittedly is more comfortable with the researchable world of facts than with the more intangible qualities of the imagination. But he found much to

identify with Twain, relating to him as a fellow widower (Twain outlived his wife, Olivia, by six years; Chernow's wife, Valerie Stearn, died in 2006), as a public speaker and as an author fortunate enough to write full time. Chernow also looks closely into subjects familiar to him: politics and finance, notably the various failed business ventures that left Twain short of money despite his author royalties and the inherited wealth of his wife. Toward the end of the book, the historian

addresses the friendships an elderly Twain cultivated with teen and preteen girls, whom Twain called his "angelfish." "At the time Twain's behavior was regarded as the charming eccentricity of a beloved humorist with a soft spot for children. We look at that same behavior today and find it odd and disturbing. It's important to get both perspectives," Chernow says. "Twain's behavior was chaste and none of the angelfish or their parents ever accused

him of improper or predatory behavior. At the same time, there was such an obsessive quality about Twain's attention to these teenage girls he devoted more time to them than to his own daughters." During a recent interview at his Upper West Side Manhattan apartment, where his glass of Diet Coke stood on a coaster illustrated with a sketch of Twain receiving an honorary college degree, Chernow also reflected on Twain's family, his politics and the sadness in his soul. Chernow's comments have been condensed for clarity and brevity.

Political egos

"I really don't know what he would say about Donald Trump. I could, yes, but I don't want to guess. But we do know what he said about political figures of his own day. And he hated Teddy Roosevelt. He saw that Teddy Roosevelt had a very large ego, very self-absorbed and a Mr. Bombastic personality. But he (Twain) has a wonderful quote where he says that Teddy Roosevelt is the Tom Sawyer of the political world of the early 20th century. He said that he was always hunting for attention. And then he has this great line. □

## Robert De Niro will receive an honorary Palme d'Or in Cannes. Here's his history with the festival



Director Martin Scorsese, and actor Robert De Niro appear after the premiere of the film "Killers of the Flower Moon" at the 76th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, on May 20, 2023.

Associated Press

**CANNES, France (AP)** — Robert De Niro will receive an honorary Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival, a culmination for the 81-year-old actor whose history with the French film festival stretches back half a century. In 1976, De Niro starred in two films: Martin Scorsese's "Taxi Driver" and Bernardo Bertolucci's "1900" that premiered in competition at Cannes. "Taxi Driver" was an immediate sensation, and went home with the festival's top prize, the Palme d'Or. Since then, De Niro has been a regular on the Croisette, returning with "The King of Comedy" in 1983, Sergio Leone's "Once Upon a Time in America" in 1984 and Roland Joffé's "The Mission" in 1986. Joffé's film also won the Palme, making De Niro

the rare actor to star in two Palme d'Or winners. Though De Niro helps run his own film festival back in New York, the Tribeca Festival, he has remained a mainstay in Cannes. He presided over the jury in 2011 that selected Terrence Malick's "The Tree of Life" for the Palme. Most recently, he and Scorsese returned to premiere "Killers of the Flower Moon" in 2023. "I have such close feelings for Festival de Cannes," De Niro said when his honorary Palme d'Or was announced last month. "Especially now when there's so much in the world pulling us apart, Cannes brings us together: storytellers, filmmakers, fans, and friends. It's like coming home." De Niro is to receive the award in the festival's opening ceremony on May 13. □



# Bucs rookie Desmond Watson, at 464 pounds, tops list of the NFL's heaviest players

By **MARK LONG**  
**AP Pro Football Writer**

Even though Desmond Watson is trying to make Tampa Bay's roster, he's already made history as the NFL's heaviest player.

The 6-foot-6, 464-pound defensive tackle from Florida signed with his hometown Buccaneers after going undrafted and will begin his NFL journey during Tampa Bay's three-day rookie mini-camp that opens Friday. He's sure to get plenty of attention maybe even as much as the team's first-round draft pick, former Ohio State receiver Emeka Egbuka.

The Bucs would no doubt like to see Watson a little lighter on his feet. The Gators struggled for four years to make tangible progress with a guy Florida coach Billy Napier called "a unicorn" and "just a big man." While no current NFL player tops 400 pounds Baltimore Ravens guard Daniel Faaalele is the heaviest at 380 there have been a few who have played at or near four bills. Here's a look at some of the beefiest guys in league history:

Aaron Gibson, 410 pounds  
A first-round draft pick by Detroit in 1999, Gibson start-



Florida defensive lineman Desmond Watson runs through a drill during the school's NFL football pro day, March 27, 2025, in Gainesville, Fla.

Associated Press

ed 15 games for the Lions before getting waived in the middle of his third season. Shoulder issues landed the offensive tackle on injured reserve in each of his first two years. He also played with Dallas and Chicago before getting one final shot in the NFL with Buffalo in 2006; the Bills cut him near the end of training camp. He bounced around the Arena Football League from there. He

battled depression after his playing days ended and weighed as much as 480 pounds.

Terrell Brown, 403 pounds  
The 6-foot-10 Brown signed with the St. Louis Rams as an undrafted rookie from Mississippi in 2013. He showed up 15 pounds heavier than then-Rams coach Jeff Fisher expected. He shed some weight during training camp the Rams had him playing right tackle after

working him on both sides of the ball but he didn't make the team.

Nate Newton, 401 pounds  
Cut by Washington before spending two years (1984-85) in the USFL, Newton's career changed dramatically when he signed with the Dallas Cowboys. Nicknamed "The Kitchen" because of his size, Newton lost a footrace with then-Cowboys coach Jimmy Johnson that pushed him

to get into better shape. He ended up becoming one of the league's most dominant guards in the 1990s. He made six Pro Bowls while blocking for Emmitt Smith and Troy Aikman and helped the Cowboys win three Super Bowls. Newton was back over 400 pounds in retirement, but he eventually lost nearly half his body weight thanks to stomach surgery in 2010. Michael Jasper, 394 pounds  
Despite weighing as much as 450 pounds as a two-way player at Bethel University of the NAIA, Buffalo drafted Jasper in the seventh round in 2011. He dropped to 375 pounds during training camp but was released in final cuts. He landed on Buffalo's practice squad but never played in a regular-season game. He's now the head coach at Stetson. Bryant McKinnie, 386 pounds  
McKinnie played in 179 games, with 162 starts, over a 12-year NFL career. A college standout at Miami and the seventh overall pick by Minnesota in 2002, McKinnie's 6-foot-8 frame handled the weight well. He made the Pro Bowl in 2009 and won the Super Bowl with Baltimore following the 2012 season. □

## Pedersen wins opening Giro d'Italia stage in Albania and claims pink jersey

**TIRANA, Albania (AP)** — Former world champion Mads Pedersen narrowly beat Wout van Aert in a sprint finish to win the opening stage of the Giro d'Italia on Friday and claim the first pink jersey of this year's race, which started in Albania for the first time.

Pedersen, who won the world title in 2019, edged Van Aert by half a wheel in the hilly 160-kilometer (99-mile) stage from Durrës to Tirana, which had a flat finish.

"We had a clear plan today and the team was really amazing to put that hard a tempo on the

climb. That was exactly what we wanted," Pedersen said of how his Lidl-Trek team set the pace on the final third-category climb. "We made a plan and we fulfilled the plan."

It was Pedersen's second career stage win in the Giro, having also won in Naples two years ago.

Pedersen has also won two stages at the Tour de France, and three at the Spanish Vuelta. Giro d'Italia organizers said he will be the first rider from Denmark to wear the pink jersey.

"To top it off with the pink jersey is absolutely amazing," Pedersen said. "It's

my first leader's jersey in a Grand Tour."

Venezuelan rider Orluis Aular crossed third.

Overall contender Mikel Landa crashed toward the end of the stage and was carried away on a stretcher, forcing him to abandon the race.

The Soudal Quick-Step team said that Landa fractured a vertebra, which "will require Mikel to remain in a stable lying position for an extended period of time."

The race remains in Albania for two more days. Stage 2 on Saturday is a 13.7-kilometer individual time trial in Tirana that will

test overall contenders like Primož Roglič and Juan Ayuso. The three-week Grand Tour returns to Italy

for Stage 4 in Puglia directly across the Adriatic Sea from Albania. The finish is in Rome on June 1. □



Mads Pedersen of Lidl-Trek, right, celebrates winning stage 1 of the Giro d'Italia from Durazzo (Durrës) to Tirana (Tirane), Albania, Friday, May 9, 2025.

Associated Press



## Mitchell shows staying power at soggy Truist with 2nd-round 67; McIlroy 5 strokes off the lead

By BOB LENTZ  
AP Sports Writer

FLOURTOWN, Pa. (AP) —

Keith Mitchell held the first-round lead at three tournaments earlier this season before falling out of the top spot. He's showing staying power at the Truist Championship.

Mitchell followed a career-best round with a 3-under 67 on Friday and maintained a one-shot lead after two rounds at Philadelphia Cricket Club's Wissahickon Course.

Mitchell, who led the way with a 61 on Thursday, offset two bogeys with five birdies, including a three-hole run on Nos. 3-5, for a 12 under total.

Shane Lowry was second at 11 under after a 5-under 65, and Sepp Straka (67) was another stroke back. Defending champion Rory McIlroy shot a 3-under 67 and was tied in a large group for fourth.

Mitchell said he's feeling more comfortable in the top spot. And it showed.

"I guess just being a little more comfortable in that



Keith Mitchell waits on the 17th hole during the second round of the Truist Championship golf tournament at the Philadelphia Cricket Club, Friday, May 9, 2025, in Flouertown.

Associated Press

position," Mitchell said. "Playing well the last couple Thursdays, it's just I feel like I've been there now three or four times. So trying to just build off of that and build into Friday, then Saturday and Sunday.

"It's a four-round tournament. They don't give any

points or money out on Thursday. So I've got to keep it going."

One day after 64 of the 72 golfers in the no-cut field broke par in near-perfect weather and scoring conditions, the course was softened by overnight rain and the field dealt with

on-and-off showers and temperatures in the 50s Friday. The result: longer irons into Philly Cricket's modest par 4s and a more difficult 7,100-yard, par-70 test for the sixth signature event of the PGA Tour season.

Lowry was undeterred by the weather and posted

the lowest round of the day, while McIlroy was joined at 7 under by Justin Thomas (67), Colin Morikawa (70) and Patrick Cantlay (68), among others.

Mitchell was steady throughout, never wavering from his preplanned strategy on the A.W. Tillinghast design that opened in 1922. He followed bogeys at Nos. 2 and 11 with birdies and described the bounce-backs as "huge." "If you get going in the wrong direction with momentum on a day like today, it can really catch you," he said.

Lowry, who opened with a 64, birdied four of his first eight holes. After a bogey at the 10th, he bounced back by making a 53-foot birdie putt at No. 11 and closed out the round with another birdie at the 15th. He discounted the notion that he has an advantage over most players in chilly, damp conditions just because he hails from Ireland. "Everyone says that to me every day when it rains," he said. □

## Alcaraz beats Lajovic in return from injury at Italian Open; Sabalenka and Gauff advance

By ANDREW DAMPF  
AP Sports Writer

ROME (AP) — Carlos Alcaraz returned from a brief injury layoff and didn't appear to have any issues during a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Serbian qualifier Du-

san Lajovic at the Italian Open on Friday.

The third-ranked Alcaraz withdrew from the Madrid Open last month due to an upper right leg ailment that bothered him during the Barcelona Open final.



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz in action against Serbia's Dusan Lajovic during the Italian Open tennis tournament in Rome, Friday May 9, 2025.

Associated Press

He also had a left leg injury.

Against Lajovic, Alcaraz wore a long black brace that covered the upper portion of his right leg and stretched down to just below his knee.

"The body felt great," Alcaraz said. "I just moved well. I made a few good sprints today without any pain. ... It was a test for me so I think I passed the test today."

"It was a great performance, great level, which was surprising for me a little bit, but just really happy for that," Alcaraz added.

Alcaraz won the opening four games but dropped his serve when he served for the first set at 5-2.

The Spaniard broke back in the next game to close it out, showing off his speed

on the clay court at the Foro Italico when he ran down a drop shot and produced a backhand winner on one key point.

Alcaraz also went ahead early in the second set. He finished with the same number of winners as unforced errors 24.

Alcaraz, who won the Monte Carlo Masters in April, improved to 10-1 on clay this season. He'll next face either 31st-seeded Alex Michelsen or Laslo Djere.

A four-time Grand Slam champion, Alcaraz is preparing to defend his title at the French Open, which starts May 25.

The Rome tournament also marks the return of top-ranked Jannik Sinner from a three-month doping ban.

Sinner and Alcaraz are in opposite sides of the draw. Sinner opens against 99th-ranked Mariano Navone on Saturday.

In the women's tournament, top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka opened with a 6-2, 6-2 victory over Anastasia Potapova.

Sabalenka beat Coco Gauff in the Madrid final last weekend.

In a night match, Gauff needed to rally for a 3-6, 6-2, 6-1 victory over 156th-ranked Canadian qualifier Victoria Mboko.

The 18-year-old Mboko, a semifinalist at the Wimbledon and U.S.

Open junior tournaments in 2022, gave Gauff trouble at the start with her solid baseline game. □